

BREEZY WANDERERS BOUNCE BEDFORD

Horseman scores four in friendly

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Bedford 2

FOR their first warm-up match of the new campaign Wycombe Wanderers chose Southern League professionals Bedford as the opposition, their old F.A. Cup adversaries of last season, and gave a promising display at Loakes Park on Saturday.

In what was really more an aperitif, before the main course is served in eight days time, on August 19, Wycombe moved the ball crisply to gain some small consolation for that cup defeat.

It almost goes without saying that Tony Horseman helped himself to four goals to open his 1967/68 account. Wycombe were without the services of Paul Bates, still playing cricket, and Len Worley, away on holiday.

Bedford included only three players from the cup side which last met Wycombe. Several changes have taken place, including a drop in status for Bedford and the appointment of a new manager in Ron Heckman. Several new players have been signed, including ex-Charlton forward Peter Burridge and Laurie Churchill, from amateur cup-holders Enfield.

DARVILL PLEASED

Manager-coach Barry Darvill summed up the team's first 90 minutes of competitive football by saying "I am very pleased with the display it was good training for them. I thought we looked far fitter than Bedford and obviously our rigorous pre-season training sessions will pay dividends."

Wanderers went ahead after 15 minutes when Merrick nodded on a Maskell goalkick to Samuels who raced clear before chipping inside to Horseman who made no mistake.

Wycombe's second goal will not be bettered at Loakes Park this season. A real gem of a goal from the little maestro himself Tony Horseman. A tenacious piece of work by Busby won a corner on the right, Merrick took the kick and Horseman darted in, and crashed the ball into the roof of the net with a glorious first-time volley which left Collier helplessly beaten in the 60th minute.

In the early stages of the second half Bedford gained territorial advantage and Maskell was forced to pull off two full-length saves in order to keep his score-sheet clean.

But after a brief respite Wycombe moved back on top in the 77th minute when Merrick's cross was blatantly punched behind by right-back Wright, Horseman easily completing his hat-trick sending the 'keeper the wrong way.

ANOTHER PENALTY

Bedford, who constantly kept switching their players, surprisingly pulled two goals back in the final stages. First Cleary scored when Maskell failed to dive at his feet and Faulkner impeded Hall in the box, with Albury easily converting the spot-kick.

Almost on the whistle Horseman scored again, when, after winning the ball in the middle of the penalty area, he beat three men and the 'keeper in the space of a sixpence before sliding the ball in.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, J. Beck; B. Baker, V. Faulkner, C. Gale; L. Merrick, K. Samuels, V. Busby, A. Horseman, S. Holmes.